

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: OWEN STORY ON GIST

REFS.: CAPE TOWN 546 (NOTAL); NAIROBI 7965 (NOTAL);

ADDIS ABABA 11205 (NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

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1. KEN OWEN ARTICLE RESULTED FROM HIS "DISCOVERY" OF GIST "SOUTH AFRICA, APARTHEID," AS REVISED AUGUST 1974. HE INTERPRETED WORDING THEREIN AS LENDING CREDENCE TO HIS VIEW THAT AF HAS HARDENED ITS POLICY ON SOUTH AFRICA FOLLOWING PORTUGUESE COUP AND SUBSEQUENT MOVES TOWARD DECOLONIZATION IN PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN TERRITORIES. LATER HE WAS SHOWN MARCH 1971 VERSION OF GIST IN WHICH THE SAME PHRASES--"THE US GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ENCOURAGE AMERICAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA" AND "MAINTAIN FORMAL, IF NOT CORDIAL RELATIONS"--WERE ALSO USED, AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE 1970 VERSION AS WELL. OWEN THEN PURSUED MATTER FURTHER WITH SEVERAL OFFICERS IN AFRICAN BUREAU INCLUDING QUERY AS TO WHETHER GIST REPRESENTED US POLICY. HE WAS TOLD THAT GIST PUBLICATION IS CONCISE INFORMATION SERIES NOT INTENDED AS COMPREHENSIVE US POLICY STATEMENTS AS IS CLEARLY INDICATED ON MASTHEAD.

2. COPIES OF ALL THREE GIST VERSIONS BEING POUCHED. SUM OF THIS EPISODE IS THAT OWEN JUMPED TO UNWARRANTED CONCLUSIONS IN EFFORT PROVE HIS POINT.

3. SA AMBASSADOR BOTHA CALLED ON ASST. SECRETARY EASUM SEPTEMBER 16 TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT CERTAIN LANGUAGE IN LATEST GIST. BOTHA SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF PUBLICATION'S EXISTENCE (WHICH PRESUMABLY CALLED TO HIS ATTENTION BY OWEN). HE THOUGHT IT OUT OF LINE WITH WHAT HE CONSIDERED AMERICAN POLICY TO BE. EASUM POINTED OUT HE HAD NOT SEEN IT BEFORE BUT THAT DOCUMENT CORRECTLY SETS FORTH BASIC U.S. POLICY, THAT LANGUAGE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT USED IN EARLIER VERSIONS ALTHOUGH SOME POINTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER EXPRESSED. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT TO BOTHA AS TO OWEN THAT GISTS ARE NOT COMPREHENSIVE US POLICY STATEMENTS.

4. COMMENT ON ESQUIRE AND GUARDIAN STORES WILL BE SENT SOON AS POSSIBLE. PARTIAL REPORTS INDICATE THEY GIVE OPPOSITE IMPRESSION TO OWEN'S THESIS, I.E., THAT USG IS SOFTENING ARMS EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA. WOULD APPRECIATE LONDON SENDING GUARDIAN TEXT IF NOT ALREADY DONE. KISSINGER

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